

Date: Sun, 26 Dec 93 16:40:31 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1511
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sun, 26 Dec 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1511

Today's Topics:

 cw waivers (2 msgs)
 Daily Summary of Solar Geophysical Activity for 25 December
 Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car - very long/rambling
 Help on USA Ham-prefix !
 QSL Route for XF4CI ???
 was waivers
 Where are all the young enthusiasts?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 26 Dec 1993 19:30:18 GMT
From: usc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!cs.utexas.edu!gerald@cc.utexas.edu!
astro.as.utexas.edu!oo7@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: cw waivers
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

lawrence.goodwin@support.com claims:

>Anyone with a learning disorder and a doctor can get a code waiver by
>just making an appointment. I know a few people who have gotten one
>by simply picking up the phone and telling their doctor they need it!

I believe the original posting was another complaint about the
5 wpm code requirement, and unless the rules have changed very
recently you cannot get a medical waiver for that, only for the
13 and 20 wpm tests.

>I recognize it as a nearly obsolete mode that is primarily still alive
>for sentimental reasons.

This is pure baloney. CW has never been obsolete. You may not like contesting, but for every phone contest there is a CW contest. The best testers are not interested in using obsolete modes, so why do these contests still exist and generate so much activity? You may not like DXing, but all major expeditions operate mainly SSB phone and CW. Why would people spend thousands of dollars to activate a rare country, aim to make as many QSOs as possible and then use an obsolete mode to do it? Sure, there are a few phone-only expeditions, but there are also CW-only ones. G3SXW spend 3 weeks on Tristan da Cunha and made 23,000+ QSOs on CW and about 3 on phone. You think he did this just for sentimental reasons?

Now I would say that AM is an obsolete mode, it has a few adherents but it is spectrally inefficient and if all the people who use CW did so for purely sentimental reasons you ought to find that a lot of those use CW use AM in preference to SSB. They don't. There are no major contests where anyone uses AM, there are no expeditions that use AM.

By your own admission, you have made about 50 CW QSOs in your life, yet you want us to take your word for it that it is an obsolete mode. Did someone tell you this or did you conclude this by yourself after 50 CW QSOs at 5 wpm? I would agree that 5 wpm CW is quasi-obsolete, and I would rarely use it if I were limited to that speed. 5 wpm is an entry level speed only. Even 20 wpm is slow for contests and serious DXing. There is nothing obsolete about CW, but it takes some time and effort to get to the speed where you can use it efficiently.

Derek Wills (AA5BT, G3NMX)
Department of Astronomy, University of Texas,
Austin TX 78712. (512-471-1392)
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu

Date: Sun, 26 Dec 1993 20:58:10 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!jfh@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: cw waivers
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu (Derek Wills) wrote:
>lawrence.goodwin@support.com claims:
>>Anyone with a learning disorder and a doctor can get a code waiver by
>>just making an appointment. I know a few people who have gotten one

>>by simply picking up the phone and telling their doctor they need it!
>
> I believe the original posting was another complaint about the
> 5 wpm code requirement, and unless the rules have changed very
> recently you cannot get a medical waiver for that, only for the
> 13 and 20 wpm tests.

And the FCC is supposedly getting more stringent about the 13/20 waiver as well.

>>I recognize it as a nearly obsolete mode that is primarily still alive
>>for sentimental reasons.
>
> This is pure baloney. CW has never been obsolete. You may not like
> contesting, but for every phone contest there is a CW contest.

Perhaps he meant "obsolete outside ham radio". It's not likely that you will find a use for Morse code that's (a) not just a licensing requirement, like the code requirement for some commercial licenses, or (b) incapable of being replaced by a newer mode which is easier, faster, or both.

> The
> best testers are not interested in using obsolete modes, so why
> do these contests still exist and generate so much activity?

Isn't this a circular argument? Couldn't you just as well say that Morse is obsolete and the best testers use Morse, and therefore the best testers use obsolete modes? And isn't your definition of "best" presupposing the use of Morse?

--

Jack Hamilton POB 281107 SF CA 94128 USA
jfh@netcom.com kd6ttl@w6pw.#nocal.ca.us.na

Date: Sat, 25 Dec 1993 23:01:30 MST
From: destroyer!nntp.cs.ubc.ca!alberta!adec23!ve6mgs!usenet@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Daily Summary of Solar Geophysical Activity for 25 December
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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DAILY SUMMARY OF SOLAR GEOPHYSICAL ACTIVITY

25 DECEMBER, 1993

several days as the suspected area rotates into a better position for analysis. Region 7640 is capable of spawning a major flare and bears watching closely.

The geomagnetic field has been at mostly quiet levels in the mid latitudes with some active periods experienced at higher latitudes.

Geophysical activity forecast: the geomagnetic field is expected to be at mostly quiet levels for the next 24 hrs.

Event probabilities 26 dec-28 dec

Class M	65/70/70
Class X	10/10/10
Proton	05/05/05
PCAF	Green

Geomagnetic activity probabilities 26 dec-28 dec

A. Middle Latitudes

Active	10/15/15
Minor Storm	05/05/10
Major-Severe Storm	01/01/01

B. High Latitudes

Active	10/15/25
Minor Storm	05/10/15
Major-Severe Storm	01/01/05

HF propagation conditions were near-normal over the low and middle latitude paths, and slightly below normal to near-normal for night-sector high and polar latitude paths. Conditions over the high latitudes are beginning to improve due to elevated solar flux levels from Region 7640. The potential for stronger or more frequent SWF activity is increasing as this solar region shows greater overall complexity.

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REGIONS WITH SUNSPOTS. LOCATIONS VALID AT 25/2400Z DECEMBER

NMBR	LOCATION	LO	AREA	Z	LL	NN	MAG	TYPE
7640	N09E08	198	0650	FKI	22	085	BETA-GAMMA	
7641	N04E06	200	0080	HSX	03	004	ALPHA	
7642	N11W34	240	0000	AXX	00	001	ALPHA	

7643 S17E54 152 0000 AXX 00 001 ALPHA
 7635 N02W70 276 PLAGE
 REGIONS DUE TO RETURN 26 DECEMBER TO 28 DECEMBER
 NMBR LAT LO
 7633 S18 090
 7630 S10 087
 7629 S20 083

LISTING OF SOLAR ENERGETIC EVENTS FOR 25 DECEMBER, 1993

A. ENERGETIC EVENTS:

BEGIN	MAX	END	RGN	LOC	XRAY	OP	245MHZ	10CM	SWEEP
1229	1233	1236			C2.3		130		
1741	1756	1800	7640	N07E06	M1.5	SN			
1822	1823	1823					130		
2021	2025	2030			C1.0		170		

POSSIBLE CORONAL MASS EJECTION EVENTS FOR 25 DECEMBER, 1993

BEGIN	MAX	END	LOCATION	TYPE	SIZE	DUR	II	IV
24/A2327		25/B1457	N11W40	DSF				

INFERRED CORONAL HOLES. LOCATIONS VALID AT 25/2400Z

ISOLATED HOLES AND POLAR EXTENSIONS

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	CAR	TYPE	POL	AREA	OBSN
NO DATA AVAILABLE FOR ANALYSIS								

SUMMARY OF FLARE EVENTS FOR THE PREVIOUS UTC DAY

Date	Begin	Max	End	Xray	Op	Region	Locn	2695 MHz	8800 MHz	15.4 GHz
24 Dec:	0324	0327	0329	B6.0						
	0333	0339	0345	B7.4	SF	7640	N07E27			
	0854	0859	0911	C2.7	SN	7640	N07E22			
	0923	0926	0928	C1.7						
	0946	0959	1001	C3.8	SN	7640	N07E20			
	B1151	1157	1215		SB	7640	N07E24			
	1208	1216	1221	C5.1	SF	7640	N08E22			
	1318	1319	A1328		SF	7635	N04W49			
	1322	1324	A1329		SF	7640	N08E26			
	1333	1341	1348	C2.5	SF	7640	N07E20			

1411	1415	1425	C1.4			
1631	1635	1640	C1.0			
1725	1731	1735	C3.9	SN	7640	N06E17
1905	1910	1913	B8.9			
2102	2109	2112	C1.8	SF	7640	N07E16
2115	2120	2122	C2.1	SF	7640	N06E15
2246	2249	2252	B6.7			
2259	2303	2312	B7.1			
2353	2357	0000	B9.1	SF	7640	N07E15

REGION FLARE STATISTICS FOR THE PREVIOUS UTC DAY

	C	M	X	S	1	2	3	4	Total	(%)
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	-----
Region 7635:	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	001	(4.8)
Region 7640:	7	2	0	11	2	0	0	0	013	(61.9)
Uncorrelated:	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	007	(33.3)

Total Events: 021 optical and x-ray.

EVENTS WITH SWEEPS AND/OR OPTICAL PHENOMENA FOR THE LAST UTC DAY

Date	Begin	Max	End	Xray	Op	Region	Locn	Sweeps/Optical Observations
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	-----	-----	-----
24 Dec:	0946	0959	1001	C3.8	SN	7640	N07E20	Continuum
	B1151	1157	1215		SB	7640	N07E24	Continuum
	1208	1216	1221	C5.1	SF	7640	N08E22	III

NOTES:

All times are in Universal Time (UT). Characters preceding begin, max, and end times are defined as: B = Before, U = Uncertain, A = After. All times associated with x-ray flares (ex. flares which produce associated x-ray bursts) refer to the begin, max, and end times of the x-rays. Flares which are not associated with x-ray signatures use the optical observations to determine the begin, max, and end times.

Acronyms used to identify sweeps and optical phenomena include:

II	= Type II Sweep Frequency Event
III	= Type III Sweep
IV	= Type IV Sweep
V	= Type V Sweep
Continuum	= Continuum Radio Event
Loop	= Loop Prominence System,

Spray = Limb Spray,
Surge = Bright Limb Surge,
EPL = Eruptive Prominence on the Limb.

SPECIAL INSERT: CURRENT X-RAY EMISSIONS FROM THE JAPANESE YOHKOH SPACECRAFT

25 December 1993, 04:40 UTC

North



South

KEY: East and west limbs are to the left and right respectively. Emission strength, from minimum to maximum are coded in the following way:

[space] . , : ; - + | ! 1 2 3 4 * # @

Units used are arbitrary, for illustrative purposes. Get "showasc.zip" from "pub/solar/Software" at the anonymous FTP site: ftp.uleth.ca (IP # 142.66.3.29) to view these images on VGA screens.

** End of Daily Report **

Date: 26 Dec 93 19:19:54 GMT
From: walter!dancer.cc.bellcore.com!not-for-mail@rutgers.rutgers.edu
Subject: Good Stores/Mail Order/Emergency Use in Car - very long/rambling
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CIn17z.BzA@cbnews1.cb.att.com>, david.k.kallman <dkk@cbnews1.cb.att.com> wrote:
>Basically, I'm totally sold on going with amateur radio for
>my needs (this is a highly personal decision - I must, must
>be very clear about this). The support and detailed
>answers from the dedicated people out there, the FAQ
>files on the ARRL server, the knowledge that the whole
>world is behind you in a very supportive way, some of the
>unique applications available on amateur radio, plus being
>a tinkerer by nature make amateur radio a win for me.
>
>Her brother was big into amateur radio, while they
>were kids together, and my wife had a license herself many
>years ago. I guess this is just old hat to her, but I'll
>find that application that will get her involved too.

>Note I'm speaking strictly for myself here, and don't
>represent the views of my employeer.

I note from your sig file that you work for AT&T. Most AT&T locations also have an active Ham club and sometimes a permanent club station in the building. There's a very active club in the Whippany AT&T location.

>So now it's time to hit the books! My biggest challenge
>over the next month is going to keep my 12 year old away
>from the ham radio books. He's a bigger electronic junkie
>than I am, but he has a big school project over the next
>month that he has to stay really focused on.

Why not study together, say 1/2 hour a day as a break from that school project...all three of you...your son, your

wife and you. Then you can all go take the test as a family event. Many, many 12 year olds have passed the Novice AND Technician tests. If your son is into science, computers, etc. he'll be able to study and understand the theory and regulations without any real problems.

Standard Disclaimer- Any opinions, etc. are mine and NOT my employer's.

Bill Sohl (K2UNK) BELLCORE (Bell Communications Research, Inc.)
Morristown, NJ email via UUCP bcr!cc!whs70
201-829-2879 Weekdays email via Internet whs70@cc.bellcore.com

Date: Wed, 15 Dec 1993 22:52:10 GMT
From: usc.edu!wupost!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Help on USA Ham-prefix !
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CI116J.M1@news.ci.ua.pt> etjfonte@ci.ua.pt (J.FONTE) writes:
> Hello , tanks for reading ... Is there anyone who could explain me how
> do american ham see the difference on Callsigns ???
>
> For exemp.: In Spain the prefixes are given by zone
>
> EA1...-North West Spain
> EA8...-Canary Isl.
> EA9...-Ceuta & Mellila
> +++++ more ...
>
> QUESTION: what's the difference between prefix N0... or WA2..
>
> what does the N or W or K mean ????

Well the US callsign zones work similarly to yours. There are 10 geographic zones 0 through 9. These zones aren't all the same size. For example the 8 zone is the state of Ohio while the 4 zone is all of the southeastern United States. Zones 1, 2, and 3, are in the northeastern US, zone 5 is in the southwestern US, zone 6 is California, zone 7 is the Pacific northwest, zone 9 Indiana and Illinois, and zone 0 is the central plains states. Hawaii is KH6 and Alaska is KL7.

Now the N, K, and W are prefixes assigned to the US, like EA is assigned to Spain. We also have part of the A prefix block. In the beginning the FCC assigned W calls, so a W4Q0 call would be a real oldtimer (That's an inside joke, the FCC for a brief time allowed hams to pick their own calls from the expired list and Jim got a good one). When they ran out of 1x2 W calls, they went to 1x3 W calls, and when they ran out of those, they went

to 1x2 then 1x3 K calls such as K4NNN (Chuck's a friend who gave me my Novice exam many years ago). Finally, when they ran out of the K calls they went to 2x3 calls starting with WA, for example I used to hold WA4VJZ when I was a General. There was a special WN call prefix for Novices, for example my Novice call was WN40AA.

That was all before 1968. After 1968's Incentive Licensing debacle, things got weird. Extras got 2x1 calls, Advanced got 2x2 calls, Generals, Techs, and Novices got 2x3 calls, and N and A call blocks started being used. Now in many call zones we've run out of 2x1 calls so Extras get 2x2 calls, and 2x2 is running out in some places, etc. Plus, the FCC said we could keep our old calls when we moved to another zone or changed license class. Originally if I moved from one call zone to another I had to get a new call in my license class with that zone number, but not anymore. So now someone with a 2 call could live in the 4 zone, or someone with a 4 call could live in the 7 zone. It's all very confusing.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV	I kill you,	gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems	You kill me,	uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way	We're the Manson Family	emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244	-sorry Barney	

Date: Sun, 26 Dec 1993 14:10:52 GMT
From: usc.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!darwin.sura.net!hearst.acc.Virginia.EDU!
murdoch!faraday.clas.Virginia.EDU!clh6w@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: QSL Route for XF4CI ???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

QSL route for XF4CI is XE1CI.

Date: 26 Dec 1993 23:34:46 GMT
From: swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!gerald.cc.utexas.edu!astro.as.utexas.edu!
oo7@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: was waivers
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

jfh@netcom.com (Jack Hamilton) says:

[I said]

>> This is pure baloney. CW has never been obsolete. You may not like
>> contesting, but for every phone contest there is a CW contest.

>Perhaps he meant "obsolete outside ham radio". It's not likely that you
>will find a use for Morse code that's (a) not just a licensing requirement,
>like the code requirement for some commercial licenses, or (b) incapable
>of being replaced by a newer mode which is easier, faster, or both.

When there is a newer, faster, easier mode I expect to use it,
so long as it's a mode that I can use to communicate with the
majority of hams worldwide - I'm not aware of one at the moment.

>> The best contesters are not interested in using obsolete modes,
>> so why do these contests still exist and generate so much activity?

>Isn't this a circular argument? Couldn't you just as well say that Morse
>is obsolete and the best contesters use Morse, and therefore the best
>contesters use obsolete modes? And isn't your definition of "best"
>presupposing the use of Morse?

No, not really. On the contest reflector where those interested in
contests gather, we don't have any of this "CW is good vs obsolete"
discussion. The best contesters win phone or CW contests, whichever
they choose to enter, and usually it's the very same people. Most
contesters would like to see more contests during the year (I realize
that non-contesters disagree...) but I have never heard anyone ask
seriously for an AM contest, or for a DXpedition to go on the air
using AM. Same with spark, I guess - and older hams can get quite
sentimental about that.

I have no problem with someone giving CW a serious try and then
deciding that they don't like it (others do the same with RTTY
or phone), but it annoys me (really, 'saddens' is the word) when
someone who has not given it a fair try says "of course, we know
that morse is obsolete and only used for sentimental reasons".
We don't "know" that at all. I'm not sure what is supposed to
have happened in the last quarter-century that has made CW so
"old-fashioned" in some people's minds - i.e. since SSB took
over from AM. There are some interesting modes and techniques
out there, but for the vast majority of active hams, they are
not yet in common use. I'll give them a fair trial when they
are.

Derek Wills (AA5BT, G3NMX)
Department of Astronomy, University of Texas,
Austin TX 78712. (512-471-1392)
oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu

Date: Sun, 26 Dec 1993 23:53:41 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!btoback@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Where are all the young enthusiasts?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Dec23.142146.22059@ke4zv.atl.ga.us>, gary@ke4zv.atl.ga.us (Gary Coffman) writes:

> In article <CURRAN.93Dec22104248@corona.med.utah.edu> curran@corona.med.utah.edu (Mark Curran) writes:

> >How about the opposite side of this argument. I.E. why should one need
> >to know EE theory to upgrade from general to advanced and advanced to
> >extra? While homebrewing is a vibrant part of the service, in these
> >days of mass marketed radios, it is not essential. How about rewarding
> >operating practice and amateur service as an alternative method of
> >upgrade. (Impracticality arguments welcome).

>
> Well the amateur service requires that operators know enough regulations
> and radio theory to adjust their transmitters so that they operate legally.
> Amateurs are unique in being given blanket authority to make internal
> adjustments to their transmitters. The FCC wants assurance that they
> have an inkling of what they are doing. Thus the written exams on theory
> and regulations. In point of fact, there's no reason whatsoever for
> the Advanced or Extra class to exist. They serve no useful purpose since
> Generals and Techs need the same knowledge.

That's not quite true: as someone else has pointed out, three of the five reasons given in the regulations for the amateur service to exist involve technical expertise. In addition, amateur radio has from time to time advanced the state of the art in communications technology. It is certainly worthwhile to reward technical knowledge, even if the reward is only a few kHz of spectrum. I'll abstain on the question of whether 20wpm code speed is worth any reward, at least until I pass the test :-).

The Advanced and Extra tests do include questions on some modes that aren't covered by the Tech/General tests. Hopefully, this means that Advanced and Extra class amateurs will actually understand the equipment they're using. It also provides more people to help the less technically-inclined amateurs, so they don't all have to rely on Gary :-).

-- Bruce Toback
KN6MN

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1511

